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FM MADRID 171530Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 543 OF 17 OCTOBER

INFO UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS, PARIS, LISBON, ROME,  
ACTING GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL).

*Read in file.  
A-F.C. 19.  
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MY TELEGRAM NO. 541 (NOT TO ALL)

TALK WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ON 16 OCTOBER

PEREZ LLORCA TOLD ME THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN AT THE MEETING BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND SPAIN ON 26 OCTOBER. THE DATE WAS AWKWARD. IT WAS TWO DAYS BEFORE THE SPANISH ELECTIONS. BUT PEREZ LLORCA COULD NOT AFFORD TO BE ABSENT. IT MUST BE SEEN PUBLICLY THAT THE SPANISH MOMENTUM FOR ENTERING THE COMMUNITY WAS CONTINUING UNABATED. THE MINISTER HAD FEW ILLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT COULD BE ACHIEVED IN PRACTICE ON 26 OCTOBER. BUT HE HOPED THAT SOME SMALL MATTERS COULD BE SETTLED, IF ONLY FOR PRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES.

2. MEANWHILE HE ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU AND YOUR OFFICIALS IN LONDON NEXT WEEK THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF HIS VIEWS AS REGARDS SPANISH ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY. INFORMED OPINION IN SPAIN UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY WHICH AROSE PRIMARILY FROM THE COMMUNITY'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS. BUT HE WAS DISTURBED AT THE WAY IN WHICH THE ECONOMIC COSTS OF SPANISH ENTRY WERE NOW BEING TOTTED UP IN BRUSSELS AND IN COMMUNITY CAPITALS. SPAIN WOULD OBVIOUSLY HOPE TO GAIN SOMETHING ECONOMICALLY FROM HER ENTRY. BUT THE COSTS TO HER PARTNERS WOULD BE COMPARATIVELY SMALL AND SPAIN WAS PREPARED TO BE REASONABLE ON THIS ASPECT. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THE IMMENSE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF SPAIN JOINING THE COMMUNITY REASONABLY SOON. SOME POWERFUL VOICES EXISTED, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE SPAIN, WHICH WERE NOW SEEKING TO GIVE SPAIN MORE OF A THIRD WORLD ROLE BY DIMINISHING HER EUROPEAN DIMENSION. ALL THIS WAS TIED UP WITH NOSTALGIC HANKERINGS FOR MILITARY RULE ON THE LATIN AMERICAN MODEL. WESTERN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS MUST RECOGNISE THE CONTINUING DANGER AND TRY TO GIVE SPAIN A PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

3. PEREZ LLORCA SAID HE PARTICULARLY FEARED THE NARROW-MINDED ATTITUDE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. THEY WOULD USE AS A WEAPON AGAINST SPAIN BOTH THE FORTHCOMING DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY'S OWN RESOURCES AND THE PROBLEM OF NORTH AFRICA. MOREOVER, THEY WOULD SUPPORT THE IDEA OF PORTUGAL JOINING THE COMMUNITY BEFORE SPAIN. THIS WOULD BE VERY BADLY RECEIVED HERE.

4. PEREZ LLORCA SAID THAT THE BRITISH POSITION ABOUT FREE MOVEMENT WITH GIBRALTAR IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY ENTRY WAS COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD. BUT THE POINT WAS ACADEMIC. THE FRONTIER WOULD BE OPENED LONG BEFORE SPAIN JOINED THE COMMUNITY. HE APPRECIATED THE WAY WE HAD NOT (NOT) HARPED ON THIS POINT. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO OBSTRUCTIONISTS IN PARIS.

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5. AS REGARDS ITALIAN IDEAS FOR SPAIN, PEREZ LLORCA SAID WE MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT CONCEPTS. THE IDEA OF ATYPICAL ACCESION, AS ENUNCIATED PRIVATELY TO PEREZ LLORCA PRIVATELY BY SPADOLINI, WAS NOT TO BE DISMISSED LIGHTLY. IT COULD BE INTERESTING FOR SPAIN TO HAVE A LONG TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS COVERING SPECIFIC PROBLEMS, PROVIDED THAT SHE HAD FULL VOTING RIGHTS AND WAS A GENUINE FULL TIME MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY FROM THE START. BUT SPAIN COULD NOT ACCEPT THE OTHER CONCEPT, ASSOCIATED WITH RUGGIERO, WHICH WOULD GIVE SPAIN NOTHING MORE THAN POCO CONSULTATION AND TOKEN MEMBERSHIP.

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